

HOUSE RESOLUTION 244

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Judge Joe Brown, Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Judge Joe Brown, who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Judge Brown has exhibited dedication, diligence, and compassion in service of the citizens of this State for many years; and

WHEREAS, Joe Brown enjoyed an illustrious legal career, which was grounded in the comprehensive education he received at the University of California at Los Angeles and the university's law school; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, he accepted a Legal Services position in Memphis with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; he later became the first African-American prosecutor for the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, prior to embarking on his meritorious career on the bench, Judge Brown was the director for the City of Memphis Public Defender's Office; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, he began his own private practice and served as a part-time public defender, handling the defense of habitual offenders and major violators and training the capital defense team; and

WHEREAS, he returned to full-time public service in 1990 when the people of Shelby County recognized his sincerity and passion for justice and elected him Judge of Division IX of the State Criminal Court for Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, for fifteen years, Judge Joe Brown appeared on the reality courtroom television program *Judge Joe Brown*, for which he implemented a whole new method of sentencing first-time, non-violent offenders; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Brown is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Judge Joe Brown upon his recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.